Christmas Sees No Abatement of Fierce Fighting in War Zone

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ment of to-day's raid:

patch from South-End-on-Sea shortly after the official announcement was made, stating that two foreign aerobeen noted.

Przemysł and on the front in the Carpathians, no essential changes have been noted. planes were sighted off South End fly-ing at a height of 5,000 feet and at great speed. They were fired upon, the dispatch states, but made off. This unofficial report is believed to concern the German raider and his British pursuer, as South-End-on-Sea is just across the Thames from Sheer-

ess.
The attempt of the German airman "Christmas call" is to pay London a "Christmas call" is Dame de Lorette, north of Lens, an believed to be in fulfilment of a boast attack by the enemy has been repulsed, made more than a month ago that the This morning we captured another "Germans would be in London on Christmas."

GAINS IN WESTERN THEATRE CLAIMED BY ALLIES PARIS, December 25 (3:25 P. M.).—The following official statement was issued this afternoon:

"From the Lys to the Olse, on the evening of December 23, we gained the fork of the roads from Loos to Rutoire and from Lois to Vermelles. To the northeast of Albert we have the contract of th northeast of Albert we took possession of a portion of the village of La Boisselle, situated to the southwest of the

church, and of an advance trench to the south of that village.

"To the north from Roye to Linn, near Lyons, we also have made some progress. These various attacks, undertaken with great spirit, have everywhere conserved the ground already to time news of Austria-Hungary, is statement to-night, emphatically tradicting reports that Austria made overtures to the allies for Dr. Dumba's statement follows:

"The Paris press spreads from to time news of Austria-Hungary, is statement to-night, emphatically tradicting reports that Austria made overtures to the allies for to time news of Austria-Hungary, is statement to-night, emphatically tradicting reports that Austria made overtures to the allies for the property of the property of the control of the control of the south of the property of the control of the south of the south of the south of the control where conserved the ground already

illery has demolished the defense works of the enemy in the region of Sailly, and on the plateau of Gouvron. "On the Alsne and in Champagne there have been artillery battles, and several German attacks have been re-pulsed. To the north of Supigneul, near

made progress on the Boureuilles-Vau-'In the region of Oissy and the forhas forced the enemy to evacuate several trenches. In the lower Vosges we have advanced to within 1,500 metres of Circy, on the Vesouy River. "In Russia on the left bank of the

aster occurred. Sheerness is in the mouth of the Thames, and about thirty-five miles from London. back from one of the positions which they occupied on the right of the lower Bzura and they are being rein-OF ATTEMPTED RAID forced at another point. They are try-Following is the official announce- ing to debouch from Bolomew. To the east of Skanniewice they were re-The War Office announces that a stile aeroplane was sighted to-day 12:35 P. M. flying very high from have launched several fruitless attacks the east to the west of Sheerness. A to the west of the River Rawka and British aircraft went up in pursuit and engaged the enemy, who, after being hit three or four times, was driven off offensive on the north bank of the Pilica. In East Prussia and near Central News received a dis- Przemysl and on the front in the Car-

SLIGHT PROGRESS MADE

IN FRONT OF NIEUPORT PARIS, December 25 (10:35 P. M.) .-

The following official communication was issued by the War Office to-night: "Slight progress has been made in front of Nieuport. Towards Notre Dame de Lorette, north of Lens, an trench near Puissalende, and we have been able to hold it, notwithstanding several counterattacks.

"The enemy made a vigorous attack last night on La Tade Faux, in the Vosges, but without success."

WASHINGTON, December 25 .- Dr. Constantin Theodor Dumba, ambassador from Austria-Hungary, issued a statement to-night, emphatically con-tradicting reports that Austria has

made overtures to the allies for peace.

"The Paris press spreads from time to time news of Austria-Hungary, or Hungary alone, being tired of the war and longing for peace. The latest report in a Washington paper alleges that Austria has made unofficial peace overtures to the allies through Vienna bankers upon the basis of the cession of Galleia to Russia and Bosnia to

Servia.
"The Austro-Hungarian ambassador pulsed. To the north of Supigneul, near Berry-au-Bac, notably a slight advance of our troops has been followed by a strong counterattack, which has completely failed. In the region of Perthes strong counterattack, which has completely failed. In the region of Perthes and Mesnil le Hurlus our progress of previous days has been followed up and strengthened.

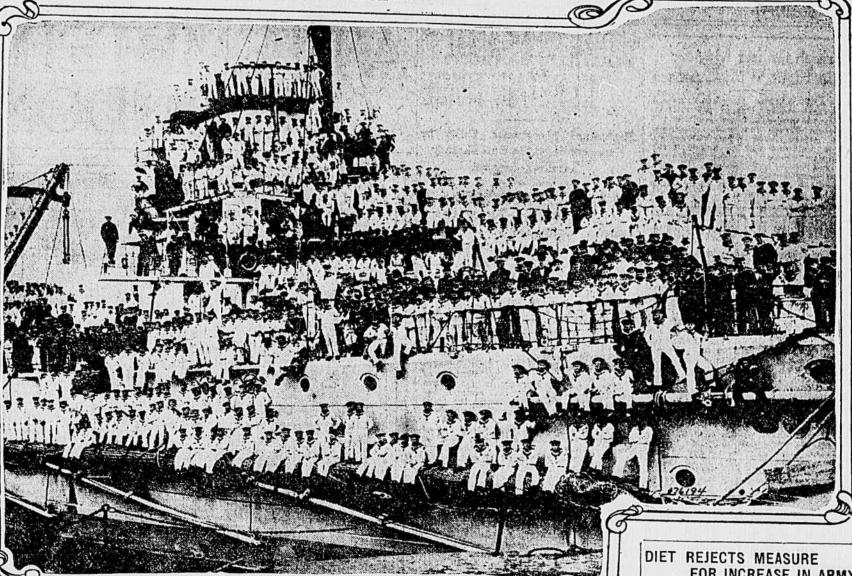
"To the north of Mesnil we took possession of a forest strongly prepared by the enemy, and to the east of trenches captured by us December 23. To the northwest of Mesnil and to the east of Perthes we have driven the east of Perthes we have driven the east of Perthes we have driven the east of trenches. To the northwest of Mesnil and to the east of Perthes we have driven the enemy from the fragments of trenches which he recaptured, and we are now masters of all his first line of defense. In the Argonne, in the forest of Lafrurie, at Bagatelle, Fontaine Madame and St. Hubert, we have repulsed five attacks and strengthened our front. Between the Argonne and the Meuse, in spite of the snow and the fog, we have made progress on the Boureuilles-Vau made progress of the snow and the form the form her ally and entering into negotiations for a separate peace. The cession of Gallcia and Bosnia could only be agreed upon after a crushing defeat of the dual monarchy, an eventuality which happily does not correspond to the actual situation on the battlefields. It is not improbable that with the authors of these rumors the with the authors of these rumors the progress of the Boureuilles-Vau made progress on the Boureuilles-Vau made pro

RUSSIAN SUCCESSES

OFFICIALLY REPORTED rin the region of Clssy and the forest of Forges our heavy artillery, by subduing the batteries and machine guns of the enemy, has enabled our infantry to make a leap in advance.

"On the right bank of the Ailley the Germans have bombarded the south corner of the forest of Conzenvoye, where we are established. In the forest of Ailly and Apremont, our artillery has forced the enemy to evacuate of the Nide and Victory at the juncture of the Nide and Victory at the functure forty miles northeast of Cracow and Nowemyasto Korczyn, at the juncture of the Nida and Vistula Rivers.

In this place the Austrians tried to force a passage by sheer weight. Time after time they advanced in solid for-



The Crew of the Battle Cruizer "Milke"

A deck scene on the German battle cruiser "Moltke," one of the vessels which shelled English towns, with her complement of men and officers. The "Moltke" is of 22,600 tons displacement, with an indicated horsepower of 86,900. Her keel was laid in 1910, and she was completed in 1911. She is equipped with ten 11-inch guns, fourteen 5.9-inch guns, twelve 3.4-inch guns and four torpedo tubes. Her average speed is twenty-eight knots an hour. She carries a complement of 1,013 men and officers.

GREAT DAY FOR HIS REGIMENT

In Time This Day Will Be Recorded

absolute safety. Now, when I look back and call to mind the situation of my poor squadron of the fifty-eight surviving, quite a few were on parole, and did not take part in the attack. On the evening of that day I proceeded with twenty-seven men and three non-commissioned officers. In view of that fact, one must really feel that God took me in special guard. Be at ease At Lagarde, on August 11, His Squadron Lost 84 Out of Its 142 Men.

GREAT DAY FOR HIS REGIMENT

Look me in special guard. Be at ease and contented, my darling. When I return to the front my lucky star will again guard me from danger. Now more than ever I have a feeling of absolute confidence!

"On the 11th, bright and early, as n Time This Day Will Be Recorded in History as Are Gravelotte and Mars-la-Tour—Death Ride Against Automatic Guns and Infantry.

On the lith, bright and early, as always, in good humor we started out, realizing less than ever before all that the day might bring. At 2:33 the fighting between artillery and infantry broke out, in which we took a hand at 12 o'clock.

The first state of the First sta

With 400 Taxicabs and Other Light Cars, Force of 70,000 French Thrown Against Germans.

MOVE MADE WITHIN SIX HOURS

Von Kluck, Not Reckoning on Such a Sortie, Forced to Stop and Give probably will be held in March. Battle, and Result Is Retreat of Kaiser's Men.

FOR INCREASE IN ARMY

Emperor Exercises His Royal Preroga-tive and Dissolves Imperial Body.

Premier Scores Opposition. TOKYO, December 25 .- The Emperor

their attack upon the army. He denied the proposals meant the expansion of the army and militarism.

The army measure was rejected by a majority of sixty-five, but the House approved the naval increase by a majority of seven.

A rescript suspends the House of Peers, pending the election, which

The House of Representatives rejected the army expansion measures MOST IMPORTANT GAINS

RESISTANCE OF GERMANS STUBBORN, BUT FUTILE

British Long-Range Naval Guns Tear Into Every Line of Works They Erect.

ALLIES MAKE STEADY GAINS

Upon Their Ability to Maintain Commanding Positions Along Stretch of Coast Depends Success of Turning Against Right Flank.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.]
PARIS, December 25.—The Franco-Belgian advance along the sand dunes of the Belgium littoral is developing remarkable strength. Though the official communique issued from the War Office to-night con-

fines itself to the bare statement that some progress has been made before Nieuport," It is permissible to add that this movement is the most significant of the operations on the left wing of Upon the ability of the allies to maintain the commanding position along this stretch of the coast depends the

success of the turning movement against the right flank of the "Wurttembergers," under Grand Duke Albrecht, when the allies' numerical strength shall warrant their assumption of the violent offensive designed, to clear Belgium of the invaders. While the British ships are main-

taining a vigorous cannonading of the coast at positions of the Germans, upon the French and Belgian infantry devolves the task of burrowing among the dunes and keeping the Germans stirred up by close contact to such an extent that they will find it dif-ficult to establish themselves firmly in adequate defensive positions. This they are doing with remarkable suc-

The German resistance has been stub-born, but ineffective, mainly because of the flanking fire of the British long-

to-day dissolved the Imperial Diet, because it rejected the measure for an increase in the army. This upheld the ministry's program for military strength and brought cheers from the government side in the House.

The Pramier, Count Okuma, scored the opposition for "impeding the national welfare." Falling to find a flaw in the policy of Foreign Minister Kato regarding China, he said, they centred their attack upon the army. He denied the footing the first said in the British long-range naval guns, which tear every line of works they erect, and scatter their forces, while keeping the German guns on the move.

To-night's official statement adds that during the day the Germans attacked in the direction of Notre Dame de Lorette, to the north of Lens, in Northeastern France, but the attack was repelled, while further to the story carried a new German trench, which they had, despite repeated counterattacks of the Germans.

In the Vosges region, the statement

In the Vosges region, the statement adds, the invaders made a vigorous but unsuccessful attack on Tete de Faux.

Reports from the whole battle front reports from the whole battle front indicate that Christmas Day was considered as good a fighting day as any other, and throughout the day heavy artillery engagements were fought, with here and there an attack or counwith here and there an attack or counterattack by infantry in efforts to take or retake the trenches which have been fought for again and again in what seems to the men in the trenches

to be an endless battle.

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In the north, where the fighting is no less desperate than in the wooded districts along the eastern stretch of the line, like gains have been recorded. Bethune, the allies on the fevening of December 23 captured the position of the fort in the road from Loos, where it branches toward Rutoire and Vermelles. This is most important strategically, as it commands the military highway which parallels the canal. French and British troops, attacking QUIET IN FLANDERS the town of Laboiselle, to the north east of Albert, captured the south-western portion of the village, as well as a trench to the south of it, at which

> Near Lihons, from Roye to Lihu, the French offensive resulted in slight

> the Germans maintained an advanced



"Sold in Quarts, Pints and Splits."